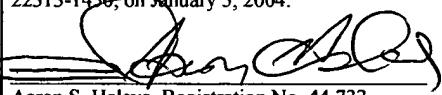


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : George B. Sigal et al.  
Serial No. : 09/896,962  
Filed : June 29, 2001  
For : **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVED LUMINESCENCE ASSAYS USING MICROPARTICLES**  
Group Art Unit : 1637  
Examiner : J. Siew

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 5, 2004.

  
Aaron S. Haleva, Registration No. 44,733

Mail Stop Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This Amendment and Response to Office Action is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on July 3, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants hereby request a three month extension of time, extending the time in which to respond to the Office Action to January 5, 2004 (January 3, 2004 was a Saturday). Accordingly, this Amendment and Response is being timely submitted. Please charge the three-month extension fee in the amount of \$950.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0540. An additional copy of this page is enclosed.

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